

FACT SHEET: CALIFORNIA ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) INITIATIVE

AUGUST 2015

Since November 2012, the California State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) have been working with the Unified Program Agencies (UPAs) to identify and address a backlog of abandoned or improperly closed Underground Storage Tanks (USTs). Data provided on progress is current as of July 2015.

Achieving Compliance

In partnership with the UPAs, the State Water Board **obtained compliance at 60% of 342 Abandoned UST Sites** through regulatory actions, research, and data cleanup (see next page for map of progress as of July 2015). These sites had tanks storing fuel or other potentially hazardous products and had not completed tank closure and cleanup requirements.

To address the backlog of Abandoned UST Sites, the State Water Board and U.S. EPA have developed enforcement and guidance tools. The State Water Board issued **191 Notices of Non-Compliance** and followed up with **133 Notices of Violation**. Property owners **removed or closed 159 USTs from 70 sites**.

205 sites have come into compliance, including the removal or closure of 159 USTs!



In April 2015, U.S. EPA's TBA Program conducted a site assessment, including the removal of the two USTs at the Iglesia de Dios Israelita site in Los Angeles County.

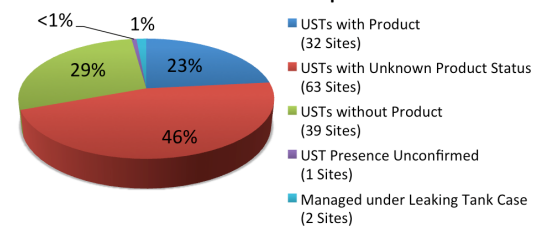
Promoting Neighborhood Revitalization

Community outreach has been part of the Initiative from the start, through providing funding and technical guidance for property owners, as well as partnering with cities and organizations working on neighborhood revitalization projects. Three sites were accepted for site assessments under U.S. EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) Program, including UST removal. The Iglesia de Dios site, a church-owned property in South Los Angeles, was assessed in April 2015 by the TBA Program. The church will convert the

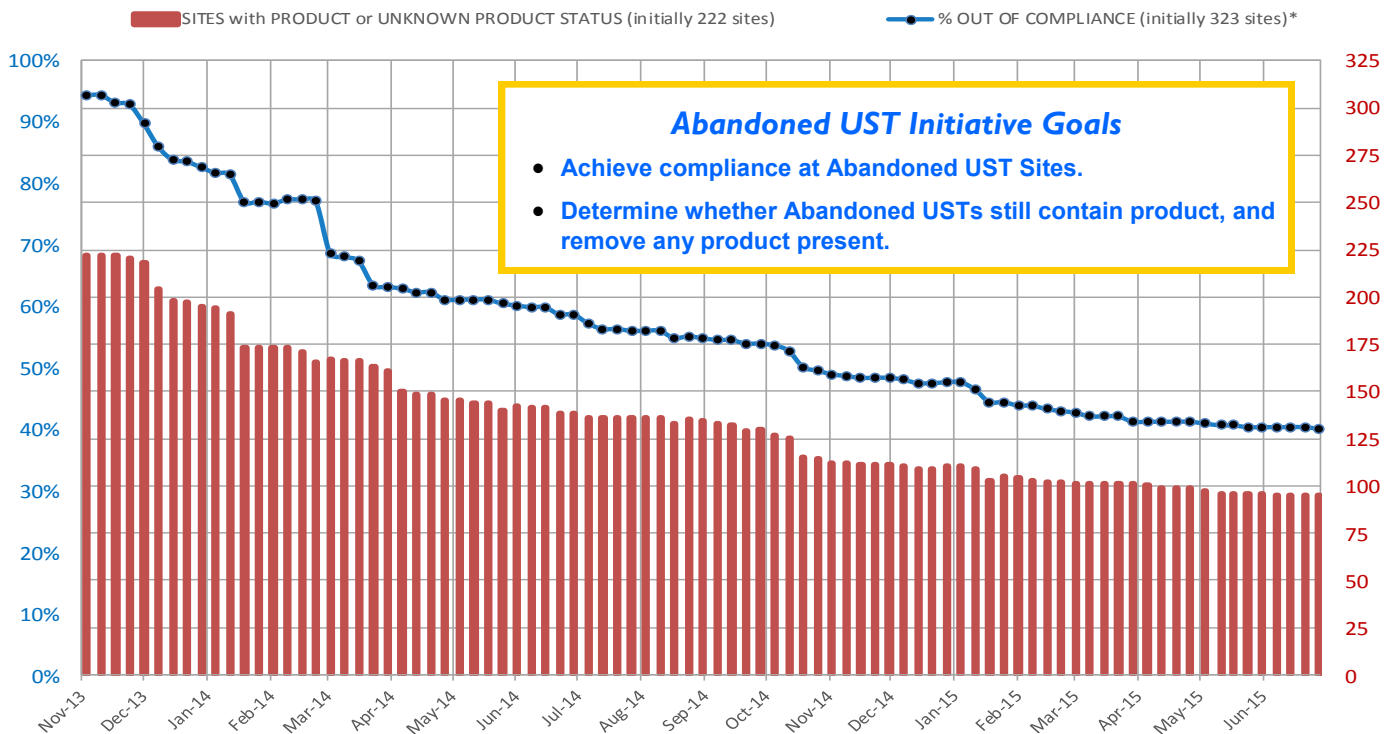
property into a youth center with academic and recreational programs, services needed in this environmental justice area.

The State Water Board will address the remaining out of compliance sites according to the status of the tank contents (see chart to the right). The next phase of the Initiative involves conducting field visits to gauge tanks, measure any product that is present, and then pump out the tanks.

Status of Tank Contents for the 137 Sites Out of Compliance



Abandoned UST Sites - Compliance Status



*Initial Abandoned UST site inventory in April 2013 included 323 sites. As of November 2013, Out of Compliance sites had already fallen to 305 sites. Nineteen additional sites were reported by UPAs in 2013-2014 for a total of 342 sites -- UPAs report additional sites as inspectors discover evidence of USTs, or after tank owners allow permits to lapse without seeking closure. The 19 "new" Out of Compliance sites reported make up 5.6% of the total site inventory tracked (342 sites).

Prepared by Redhorse Corporation, a U.S. EPA contractor working on behalf of the State Water Board.